



St. George Melkite-Greek Catholic Church

1617 West State Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1246

"An Eastern Church in communion with the Church of Rome"

Rectory and Office: 414-342-1543
The Rt. Rev. Paul G. Frechette, Pastor

Website: byzantinemilwaukee.com
Facebook: [fb.me/ByzantineMilwaukee](https://www.facebook.com/ByzantineMilwaukee)

May 21, 2023 — Sunday of the Fathers; Sts. Constantine and Helen



Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

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Divine Liturgy

Hymns

Troparion of the Resurrection (tone 6): The angelic powers appeared at your tomb, and the guards became as dead men, and Mary stood by the Sepulcher seeking your spotless Body. You despoiled Hades and yet were not tempted by it, You met the Virgin O Bestower of Life. O Lord who rose from the dead glory to you.

Troparion of the Ascension: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through Your blessing they were confirmed in their belief that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Troparion of Sts. Constantine and Helen: O Lord, Your disciple, Emperor Constantine, who saw in the sky the sign of Your Cross, accepted the call that came straight

from You, as it happened to Paul, and not from any man. He built his capital and entrusted it to Your care. Preserve our country in everlasting peace, through the intercession of the Mother of God, for You alone are the Lover of Mankind.

Troparion of the Fathers: O Christ our God, You are infinitely glorified, for You established our Fathers as radiant stars on earth: You led us to the true faith though them. O Most Merciful One, glory to You!

Kontakion of the Ascension: After fulfilling for us Your plan of redemption and joining the things of earth with those of heaven, O Christ our God, You gloriously ascended without abandoning us, but remained with us forever and reassured all who love You by telling them: "Behold, I am with you: no one has power against you."

Prokimenon: Through all the earth, their voice resounds, and to the ends of the world their message.

Stichon: The heavens declare God's glory and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 26:1,12-20

In those days, when Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself," Paul stretched out his hand and began his defense. "While I was traveling on this business to Damascus with authority and permission from the chief priests, and

midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven brighter than the sunshine around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to

kick against the goad.’ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet: for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to be a minister and a witness to what you have seen, and of the visions you shall have of me; delivering you from the people and from the nations, to whom I am now sending you, to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light, and

from dominion of Satan to God; that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in me.’ Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision; but first to the people of Damascus and Jerusalem, and then all over Judea and to the Gentiles, I set about declaring that they should repent and turn to God, doing work befitting their repentance.”

Alleluia: I have exalted one chosen out of my people. I have found David my servant, and anointed him with holy chrism.

Stichon: For my hand shall support him, and my arm shall make him strong.

Gospel: The prayer of Jesus after the Supper, John 17:1–13

At that time Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come! Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You, even as You have given Him power over all flesh, in order that to all You have given Him, He may give everlasting life. Now this is everlasting life, that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent, Jesus Christ. I have glorified You on earth; I have accomplished the work You have given Me to do. And now do You, Father, glorify Me with Yourself, with the glory that I had with You before the world existed. I have manifested Your name to the men You have given me out of the world. They were Yours, and You have given them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have learned that whatever You have given Me is from You; because the words that You have given Me, I have given to them. And they have

received them, and have known as a fact that I came forth from You, and they have believed that You did send Me. I pray for them; not for the world do I pray, but for those whom You have given Me, because they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep in Your name those You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those You have given Me, I guarded; and not one of them perished except the son of perdition, in order that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to You and these things I speak in the world, in order that they may have My joy made full in themselves.”

Stewardship

Last Sunday: donations=\$1014.27; stole offerings=\$10.00; candles=\$5.00; ordinary collections=\$564.00. Thanks for your generosity!

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Owed to eparchy (assessment, retirement and medical insurance; last updated April 23, 2023): \$37,386.

Want to automate donations? One-time or monthly payments via **PayPal**: byzantinemilwaukee.com/donate. Use your bank's **online billpay** (payee information): St. George's Syrian Congregation · 1617 W State St · Milwaukee, WI 53233-1246; phone: (414) 342-1543; email: info@byzantinemilwaukee.com.

Prayer List

Please remember—All those who are sick and in need: Barb Moden (sister of Jan Taylor), Eva Nora (niece of the Noras), Joe Radanovich, the Rebholz family, Eva Saseen (Theresa and Janelle Herro's niece), Jan Taylor, Kathy Tomaz, Espe Villasensor, John Zambo and Kathy Zambo. For those we have been asked to pray for: Justin & Krysten Hager (Jan Taylor). For those who have died: Dean Twist (uncle of Lucas Jain) and Bob Peterson. For all those living and deceased who have suffered in the recent earthquakes.

Schedule for This Week

Sunday: *Pentecost*

10:30am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Bernadette Roxas (5/23). May God grant you many years!

COVID-19

According to the Milwaukee Health Department, the best way to stop the community spread of COVID-19 is to take preventative action to protect yourself and others:

- Get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can (city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax). Vaccines are safe and readily available at walk-in clinics throughout the community for anyone over the age of six months old.
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others, and stay at least 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, and improve ventilation whenever possible.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

More information is available from the health department: city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus

Love One Another

"I give you a new commandment," said Jesus, "love one another." ... He showed the newness of His command and how far the love He enjoined surpassed the old con-

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ception of mutual love by going on immediately to add: "Love one another as I have loved you." To understand the full force of these words, we have to consider how Christ loved us. Then it will be easy to see what is new and different in the commandment we are now given.

Do you not see what is new in Christ's love for us? The law commanded people to love their brothers and sisters as they love themselves, but our Lord Jesus Christ loved us more than Himself. He who was one in nature with God the Father and His equal would not have descended to our lowly estate, nor endured in His flesh such a bitter death for us, nor submitted to the blows given Him by His enemies, to the shame, the derision, and all the other sufferings that could not possibly be enumerated. Nor, being rich, would He have become poor, had He not loved us far more than Himself. It was indeed something new for love to go as far as that!

Christ commands us to love as He did, putting neither reputation, nor wealth, nor anything whatever before love of our brothers and sisters. If need be we must even be prepared to face death for our neighbor's salvation as did our Savior's blessed disciples and those who followed in their footsteps. To them the salvation of others mattered more than their own lives, and they were ready to do anything or to suffer anything to save souls that were perishing.

The Savior urged us to practice this love that transcends the law as the foundation of true devotion to God. He knew that only in this way could we become pleasing in God's eyes, and that it was by seeking the beauty of the love implanted in us by Himself that we should attain to the highest blessings.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

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